

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Practical Workings of the System in Wyoming—Growing in Popularity.

Testimonials from Well Known Public Men Every Governor for Eighteen Years in Favor of the Present Law.

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 15, 1899.

Editor Gazette.

Some one has sent me the enclosed clipping from your paper.

Now, I assume that you wish to state facts, and that your readers may not be misled by the misstatements of this clipping, I enclose you the facts about Wyoming, attested to by well known public men. The case in Kansas is the same. Women vote there in increasing numbers, as facts abundantly show. I do not have them at hand, but if you will kindly use the true facts sent herewith about Wyoming, that your readers may not be misled, you will much oblige.

Very truly yours,

Chairman Executive Committee of the Suffrage Association.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING.

In deciding whether the practical effects of any measure will be good or bad, an ounce of experience is worth a ton of theory. In Wyoming, full suffrage was granted to women in 1890. Every governor of Wyoming for the last eighteen years has testified strongly to its good results. Governors of territories are appointed by the president, not elected by the people. They are not dependent on the women's votes, and hence their testimony is impartial.

Governor Campbell was in office when the woman suffrage law was passed. Two years later he said in his message to the territorial legislature:

"There is upon our statute book 'an act granting to the women of Wyoming the right of suffrage,' which has now been in force two years. It is simple justice to say that the women entering, for the first time in the history of the country, upon the great duties of citizenship, have conducted themselves in every respect with as much tact, sound judgment and good sense, as men."

Two years after that he said in his message:

"The experiment of granting to women a voice in the government has now been tried for four years. I have heretofore taken occasion to express my views in regard to the wisdom and justice of this measure, and my conviction that its adoption has been attended only by good results. Two years more of observation of the practical working of the system have only served to deepen my conviction that what we, in this territory, have done, has been well done; and that our system of impartial suffrage is an unqualified success."

Governor Thayer, who succeeded Campbell, said in his message:

"Women suffrage has now been in practical operation in our territory for six years, and has, during the time, increased in popularity and in the confidence of the people. The results have been beneficial, and its influence favorable to the best interests of the community."

Governor Hoyt, who succeeded Thayer, said in his message in 1888:

"Elsewhere, objectors persist in calling this honorable statute of ours 'an experiment.' We know it is not. Under it we have better laws, better officers, better institutions, better morals, and a higher social condition in general, than could otherwise exist. Not one of the predicted evils, such as loss of native delicacy and disturbance of home relations, has followed in its train."

Governor Hale, who succeeded Hoyt, expressed himself repeatedly to the same effect.

Gov. Warren, who succeeded Hale, said in a letter to Hon. C. W. Wallin, Rep., of the Massachusetts house of representatives in 1885:

"Our women consider much more carefully than our men the character of candidates, and both political parties have found themselves obliged to nominate their best men in order to obtain the support of the women. As a business man, as a city, county and territorial officer, and now as governor of Wyoming territory, I have seen much of the workings of woman suffrage, but I have yet to hear of the direct or indirect record growing out of it. Our women nearly all vote and since in Wyoming, as elsewhere, the majority of women are good and not bad, the result is good and not evil."

Hon. John W. Kingman, for four years a judge of the United States supreme court of Wyoming, says:

"Woman suffrage was inaugurated in 1890 without much discussion, and without any general movement of men or women in its favor. At that time few women voted. At each election since, they have voted in larger numbers, and now nearly all go to the polls. Our women do not attend the caucuses in any considerable numbers, but they generally take an interest in the selection of candidates, and it is a common know now, in considering the availability of a man for office, to ask, 'How does he stand with the ladies?' Frequently the men set aside certain applicants for office because their characters would not stand the criticism of women. The women manifest a great deal of independence in their preferences for candidates, and have frequently defeated bad nominations. Our best and most cultivated women vote, and vote understandingly and independently, and they cannot be bought with whiskey, or blinded by party prejudice. They are making themselves felt at the polls, as they do everywhere else in society, by a quiet but effective disavowal of the bad, and a helping hand for the good and the true. We have had no trouble from the presence of bad women at the polls. It has been said that the delicate and cultured women would shrink away, and the bold and immoderate come to the front in public affairs. This we feared; but nothing of the kind has happened. I do not believe that suffrage causes women to neglect their domestic affairs. Certainly, such has not been the case in Wyoming, and I never heard a man complain that his wife was less interested in domestic economy because she had the right to vote and took an interest in making the country respectable. The opposition to woman suffrage at first was pretty bitter. To-day I do not think you could get a dozen respectable men in any locality to oppose it."

Judge Brown of Laramie, Wyo., wrote as follows to Mrs. E. H. Wilson of Birmingham, Ala.:

"My prejudices were formerly all against woman suffrage, but they have gradually given way since it became an established fact in Wyoming. My observation, extending over a period of fifteen years, satisfies me of its entire justice and propriety. Impartial observation has also satisfied me that in the use of the ballot women exercise full say

good judgment as men, and in some particulars are more discriminating, as, for instance, on the question of morals."

Ex-Chief Justice Fisher of Cheyenne, Wyo., wrote to the Daily New Era of Lancaster, Pa., December 11, 1888:

"I wish I could show the people who are so wonderfully exercised on the subject of female suffrage just how it works. The woman watch the nominating conventions, and if the Republicans put a card on their ticket and the Democrats a good one, the Republican women do not hesitate a moment in scratching off the bad and substituting the good. It is just so with the Democrats. Hence we never always have a mixture of office holders. I have seen the effects of female suffrage and instead of being a means of encouragement to fraud and corruption, it tends greatly to purify elections."

Hon. M. C. Brown, United States Attorney for Wyoming Territory, says:

"Woman suffrage in Wyoming has accomplished much good and has harmed no one."

Hon. N. L. Andrews, speaker of the house of representatives of Wyoming (Democrat) said, in 1879:

"I came to this Territory in the fall of 1871 with the strongest prejudice possible against woman suffrage, and decidedly opposed to it in all its features. Yet, willing to be fair and candid on the subject, I became a close observer of its practical results. I have for three successive sessions been honored by an election to the legislature of the Territory and twice as speaker of the house of representatives and many opportunities for seeing and judging of this matter have not been circumscribed; and I can now say that the more I have seen of it the less my objections have been realized, and the more I have come to believe in its wisdom and good opinion. And now I frankly acknowledge that under all my observation it has worked well, and has been productive of much good in our territory, and no evil that I have been able to discern. The only wonder to me is why the states of the Union have not adopted it long ago. The women use the ballot with more independence and discrimination in regard to the qualifications of candidates than men do. If the ballot in the hands of women compels political parties to place their best men in nomination, this, in and of itself, is a sufficient reason for sustaining woman suffrage."

Mrs. L. W. Smith, superintendent of schools for Carbon county, Wyo., says:

"To vote does not require so much time that it interferes with household duties or other business. A woman is more apt to work for the individual than for party. If a candidate is not correct in character, the entire feminine vote is against him, irrespective of party. This fact renders it a necessity for each party to nominate good men, or their defeat is a foregone conclusion."

The editor of the New York Herald is opposed to woman suffrage. He wanted some strong testimony against it, and wrote to a lady of his acquaintance in Wyoming, the wife of a United States judge, and a leading member of the Presbyterian church, asking her to write an account of the practical workings of woman suffrage for his paper. She replied:

"I came to Wyoming three years ago from Missouri, and brought with me fully the usual amount of conservatism; and I regarded with peculiar suspicion the idea of woman's entering the political arena. My observations have materially modified my views upon this subject. The women of Wyoming, and especially the better class, as highly prize and as generally exercise the right of suffrage as the men. Almost everywhere here is not only recognized, but highly gratified with the practical results of woman suffrage. The only element that would desire its repeal are the vicious and corrupt, who fear its power, and are restless under the restraint it helps to impose. The women are less governed by party considerations than men, and both political parties have come to recognize the necessity of nominating their best men, or at least not nominating bad men, if they desire to succeed."

Rev. Dr. B. F. Cray, presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal churches of Northern Colorado and Wyoming, said:

"The statement has been made and widely circulated that at the late election in the territory of Wyoming 'no women voted except those of the baser sort.' I am well acquainted in Wyoming, having charge of the Methodist churches of that territory, and I know from many conversations held with women of the very highest character, from statesmen made to my knowledge and by the highest officers of the territory, and from my own personal associations with editors, lawyers, teachers and business men, that all such statements about the women of Wyoming are utterly without foundation. The very best of the territory vote, and, as they generally vote on the right side of all questions, the lies told to their detriment originate with men of the 'baser sort,' with defeated demagogues and disappointed strikers and the meanest kind of politicians who hate the majority of the women because of their pure lives and independent habits."

Rev. J. H. Burdick, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Laramie City, says:

"I think no one will say that woman suffrage has had any bad effect on our territory. I have never heard of any woman who considered the right of suffrage a severe or crushing burden. The women seem to be glad of the chance to vote. They have suffered no loss of respect or consideration, and they are as intelligent and independent as men in the exercise of their right of suffrage."

Rev. William A. Moore, pastor of the African M. E. church of Cheyenne, says:

"No unpleasantness is caused in families by women's voting, so far as I know. They vote as intelligently and independently as men, and they make just as good wives, mothers, sisters and daughters as before."

Rev. W. C. Harvey, pastor of the First Baptist church of Laramie, says:

"I came to this city prejudiced against woman suffrage, but I have been thoroughly converted. It has had no bad results, and its good results have been incalculable."

The advocates of woman suffrage have often publicly challenged its opponents to find two persons in all Wyoming territory who will assert, over their own names and addresses, that woman suffrage there has had any bad results. The opponents have hitherto failed to respond.

Horden County.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

Durham, Tex., Oct. 14.—Prospectors are coming daily. The land is selling as fast as it can be made. Three surveys are kept very close and farmers that are getting rich are feeling like striking bonanzas. The water is pure and free and is obtained in wells from fifteen to forty feet. The county will, doubtless, realize next spring. Durham is a growing place, situated on the stage line about half way between Colorado City and Lubbock.

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WHY GRANT WAS GREAT.

Due Recognition When True Merit is Once Established.

What made him so great?

When U. S. Grant was hauling cord-wood into St. Louis his neighbors did not imagine he would become the most famous man of his generation. When he was managing the little tannery in Galena no one of his intimates recognized in him a future hero. But he displayed qualities which should have satisfied them he was no common man. What was there about him?

If you start to build a single story shanty you pay little attention to the foundation; you may lay the building on the sand, with little fear the building will fall. But if you propose erecting a ten-story block your architect will tell you you must go to the rock for the basis of your foundation, or the structure is liable to tumble about your ears.

The foundation of a character is moral force—character; this is the rock foundation. The shiftable sand lacks it; he never succeeds. Grant never used an oath—a sure indication of moral character. He never lied or listened to, if he could help it, a story that was untrue. He was a man of unusual strength of character. He was a man of opinions—as his wife said—substantive; in other words, he had will power force.

These qualities, with good judgment, well balanced mental powers, and peculiar executive ability, culminated by a military education, fitted him for the emergency, when it came. As soon as his merits became known success was assured. This is always the case, with things as with men. "I well know the value of a man," said General Sherman. M. Carr of the Hotel Bennett, in New York, N. Y., "In 1884 I had difficulty with my kidneys. The doctors did not help me; I was badly out of rig. One day a traveling man from Utah advised me to try Warner's Safe Cure. The first bottle did me so much good that when my family doctor called I threw his medicine out of the window while he was present. I continued to use Warner's Safe Cure until I was entirely well."

The test of merit is the accomplishment of the matter in hand. The best is that which is most certain.

ITALIANS DID IT.

Ignorant Italians Sent to Assassinate New Orleans' Chief of Police.

A Society Supposed to Exist Which Orders the Murder of All Persons Who Stand in the Way of Its Members.

Special to the Gazette.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Oct. 16.—The assassination at midnight last night of Chief of Police David C. Hennessy has created the profoundest excitement known in New Orleans for years, and called forth threats of lynching law, violence, committee, etc. The assassination, which was the worst ever known here, has aroused the people of this city to the fact that there is an Italian society in existence which orders assassination and which removes all persons who stand in its way by murder. The society is a party of Italians were fired on as they were returning home about midnight by a gang of hired Italian braves. The trial of the case was to come up in a few days. Ever since the crime was committed the chief of police has been investigating the Italian vendetta in New Orleans, and has secured evidence of the most sensational character as to the assassination of sixty or more Italians in the last twenty years. He declared his intention of breaking up the vendetta, and does not now intend to these murders. He was warned to desist from his investigations, but he was a man of undaunted courage, whom nothing could deter. It was decided yesterday that he should die, and all the plans for his murder were arranged. Two parties of braves, or assassins, were chosen for the crime. These were stationed near where he lived, one party on Rampart, the other on Basin street, so that no matter which way he went home he could not escape them. It was a dark, rainy night, and Hennessy was carrying an umbrella raised. Just as he turned the corner where he lived a volley of several guns, which awakened the people for squares around was heard, and Hennessy fell himself wounded in the chest. He drew his revolver and fired at his assailants, but they fired from the alleyway where they were hid until he dropped on a neighboring door step riddled with bullets. When they saw him drop they came from cover and ran to the street. The other party at the next corner joined them and the gang, six or seven in number, ran down the street.

Hennessy was found with six serious wounds, three of them through the lungs, a half dozen other skull wounds, and other shots through his coat and hat. He was mortally wounded and died a few hours afterwards, but lived long enough to say that his murderers were "Dagos," or Italians.

The assassination occurred in a well-settled neighborhood, and a number of persons saw the assassins, but were except a Mr. Peeler, unable to identify them. Orders were at once issued to arrest all suspicious Italians found in the neighborhood, and before daylight nine of them were in jail, against whom several incriminating evidence was found. Three of the arrested men were identified by Mr. Peeler—the only witness of the murder, who lived opposite Chief Hennessy, and saw the assassination from a side window. All the arrested men are Sicilian fruit dealers of the very lowest type—men who recently arrived in this country, and who can speak scarcely a word of English. They did not even know Hennessy, and were evidently sent to murder by some higher authority. The police think that the assassins had been to get at the men who planned and ordered this crime in order to cover up their many other crimes, which Hennessy was about to disclose.

The feeling here to-day has been very strong against the Italians. Hennessy was only thirty-two years of age, and had been a member of the police force since he was twelve. It was he who captured the famous Italian O'gard and Espineto in this city some years ago and turned him over to the Italian authorities, and this may be in some way connected with the assassination last night.

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